

measure. It is in the democratic platform. The republicans refused to put that plank in their platform."

Yet Mr. Taft, a member of Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet, is on the stump asking the people of Ohio to give their votes to a machine whose leadership has denounced Mr. Roosevelt's most important plan as a democratic measure!

Does any intelligent Ohioan have any doubt as to the interpretation Senator Foraker and his associates would put upon the re-election of Mr. Herrick, so far as national issues are concerned?

Does any one doubt that in the light of a Herrick victory Senator Foraker would point with pride to the fact that the platform which had endorsed railway rate regulation had been repudiated, and that the candidates who had openly advocated that reform had been defeated?

Does any one doubt that in the light of a Herrick victory Senator Foraker would say, as he said at Bellefontaine: "The proposition to give the power of making rates to the interstate commerce commission—is a democratic measure?"

Does Secretary Taft really hope—as some suspect—that the people of Ohio will reject Boss Cox's state ticket even as the secretary advised the people of Hamilton county to repudiate Boss Cox's local ticket?

THE FREE PASS BRIBERY SYSTEM

George W. Berge, of Lincoln, editor and publisher of the Nebraska Independent and fusion candidate for governor in 1904, has published a book entitled "The Free Pass Bribery System." The book contains editorials from the Independent and extracts from speeches and letters by Mr. Berge during the past two or three years. Mr. Berge deals with the pass bribery evil in plain language, and points out with unerring precision the evils that follow in the train of this form of political corruption. He is not content with showing how politics is corrupted, but shows beyond dispute the demoralizing effect upon the great masses of the people. Railroad methods are exposed in scathing terms.

Mr. Berge made his campaign for governor upon the railroad pass issue and the fact that he ran many thousands ahead of his ticket shows in a measure the deep interest the people of Nebraska are taking in this phase of the railroad problem. "The Free Pass Bribery System" is a valuable contribution to current political discussion and should have a wide circulation among those who are interested in making the railroads the servants, rather than the masters, of the people.

A BANKER'S PROTEST

C. M. Brown, president of the First National bank of Cambridge, Neb., gave to the Nebraska Bankers' association some valuable advice when he told them that bankers should discharge their duties as good citizens by refusing to stand as the apologists for crimes committed in the name of wealth, and that they should exert with other good citizens their best efforts in applying a remedy for existing evils.

It is true that while many individual bankers have vigorously protested against wrongdoing on the part of trust magnates and "frenzied financiers," the bankers as a class have steadfastly sought to discourage every effort that has been put forward with the view of providing the public with relief from corporate imposition. In political campaigns the bankers have been found wielding their influence in behalf of the ticket specially favored by the corporations, and as the influence of the creditor is always powerful, the banker has played an important part in electing to office the favorite candidates of those great interests whose representatives would prey upon the people.

But it must not be forgotten that this practice has not been entirely accidental; it has not been entirely due to thoughtlessness. The bankers as a class have asked and have received extraordinary privileges at the hands of the government, and as a class they are asking new and larger favors. Because of this it has seemed to them necessary that they co-operate with other powerful influences whose representatives seek similar favors.

It will not be an easy matter to persuade the bankers as a class to raise their voices against present day evils until they abandon their own demands for new and larger favors. Even then they may not be persuaded to surrender the enormous and unjust advantages they already possess. So long as the bankers as a class enjoy special privileges under the law, we

will find the bankers as a class associating themselves with other powerful men who enjoy similar favors and who seek for new favors of the same character.

The banker who protests against the undue advantages enjoyed or sought by other powerful interests is very liable to be asked "What do you think of asset currency?" And he will find himself in a very embarrassing situation if he is not able to say: "I am as much opposed to the special and extraordinary privilege known as asset currency when sought by the banker as I am to the extraordinary privileges of conspiring in restraint of trade and destroying the legitimate commerce of the country when sought by the trust magnate."

It is a good sign when a man in Mr. Brown's position makes the severe arraignment of the trusts and other evils such as characterized his address before the Nebraska Bankers' association. It will be even a better sign when Mr. Brown and bankers who believe with him raise their voices in earnest protest against the asset currency plan and put themselves in the position to show that the bankers are as willing to do justice in matters effecting their own interests as they are to require justice at the hands of other men.

WHERE THE COLONEL FELL DOWN

Writing in his great newspaper Henry Watterson says:

"The Courier-Journal can not iterate too often its admiration of that rhapsody on green in Miss Currer Bute's volume, 'Her Naked Soul.'

Green! Beautiful warm color of green! How you thrill my inmost heart—how you fill my heart always with new hopes! Yes, green, beautiful color of green is the color of hope—the color of nature! How strange it would be if I did not love thee! Green is the color of olives; green is the color of pickles. Green is the lettuce, the first thing that appears out of the stony ground, that greets us in the new springtime. Green, a delicate green is the color of the young onion, water-cress, parsley, that is given again and again to us for the delight of the organs that lead to the principal factory controller, the stomach.

"The beauty of it! The truth of it! And yet—and yet also the wonder of it, that so deft an exposé of a girl's soul, not to say a girl's stomach, should here omit any reference to that green of greens, the green apple, either with or without grano salis!"

The beauty of it! The truth of it! And yet—and yet also the wonder of it, that so faithful a Kentuckian as Henry Watterson should, with reference to "Green! Beautiful warm color of green!" stoop to sing the praises of the apple orchard, leaving the fame of Kentucky's mint bed unwept, unhonored and unsung.

NO SUPERSEDEAS

In his speech delivered at Akron, Ohio, Secretary of War Taft said that President Roosevelt stands for a railway rate law that, while giving to the interstate commerce commission the power to fix the rate and require obedience to its order "reserves to the railroads the opportunity to avoid its operation by a resort to the federal court and a setting aside of the order by judicial supersedeas or final decree."

Secretary Taft's statement does not agree with Mr. Roosevelt's remarks at Raleigh, N. C. On that occasion Mr. Roosevelt said: "The delays of the law are proverbial and what we need in this matter is reasonable quickness of action." After saying that the commission should have the power to fix the rate which it regards as just and reasonable, Mr. Roosevelt added: "This rate should go into effect practically at once and should stay in effect unless reversed by the courts."

The only fair interpretation of this statement is that the rate is to go into effect at once and stay in effect unless set aside by final decree. The power to suspend such a rate means that delay which Mr. Roosevelt says must be avoided.

CRUSHING THE COX MACHINE

Referring to the secretary of war's speech delivered at Akron, Ohio, a dispatch to the Chicago Tribune says: "Secretary Taft also denounced George B. Cox, the republican boss of Cincinnati, and advised the people of Hamilton county to vote the democratic local ticket in an effort to crush the Cox machine."

Then Mr. Taft asked the people to vote for Mr. Herrick who is admittedly the state candidate of that same machine.

The Cox machine is a very powerful instrument of torture—torture to the law abiding people of Ohio—and it is not to be destroyed by a mere local defeat.

Mr. Taft places himself in a very peculiar situation when in one speech he calls upon the people of Hamilton county to vote the democratic local ticket because the republican ticket is dominated by the Cox machine, and then asks for the election of the republican state ticket—a ticket named by the Cox machine and which, if successful, will be controlled by the Cox machine.

Pleading for votes for Herrick, in spite of his affiliation with Cox, Secretary Taft said that it was a new doctrine in American politics "that a man is to be defeated because of the character of some of those who vote for him." The same statement may be made in behalf of the local republican ticket in Hamilton county. Why should the nominees of that local ticket be defeated because of the character of some of their supporters? And if the local republican ticket in Hamilton county should be defeated because the Cox machine is behind it, with what reason will it be urged that the republican state ticket—the election of which will give the Cox machine increased power—should receive the votes of those who are anxious to join in what Secretary Taft calls "an effort to crush the Cox machine?"

AVENUES OF USEFULNESS—MEDICINE

The care of the sick draws out the best that is in one. Next to the ministry it brings man into the closest sympathy with his fellows and the ministrations of the physician are even more universal than the ministrations of the pastor. While much progress has been made in the preservation of health and in warding off disease, a large part of the doctor's work is of a permanent character.

There is a good deal of routine in the physician's life and sickness has no respect for regular hours and yet there is a natural division of labor by which the greater hardships are borne by the younger members of the profession, who for their own advantage, relieve the older ones. While one can occupy himself with the general practice of medicine and feel that he is engaged in a worthy service there are many special fields which invite the enthusiast to all absorbing study. These special fields not only offer ample reward, but they furnish an opportunity to confer lasting benefit upon mankind. The country is aroused to a high pitch of excitement when the yellow fever or some other plague attacks a section of the country and yet the victims of consumption, wasting away in their several homes, and the victims of pneumonia, stricken when in full strength and vigor, far outnumber the victims of any plague.

Cancer, also, and the diseases incident to childhood, call for remedies which cure or prevent. No one who has a passion for the study of this profession and who enters it with a sincere desire to relieve human suffering can fail to find both happiness and usefulness.

WHY PICK OUT THE LITTLE FELLOW?

A sixty-five dollar per month clerk, testifying before New York's insurance committee, declared that he had never signed a voucher acknowledging the receipt of several hundred dollars, to which voucher his name was attached. Newspaper dispatches have much to say concerning the promises that this clerk will be vigorously prosecuted on the charge of perjury.

This is all very well so far as it goes; but how does it happen that the prosecution of the McCalls, and the McCurdys—men who robbed their policyholders of millions of dollars—is not seriously proposed by any one in authority? How does it happen that out of all of this exposure of theft and embezzlement, no one in authority seriously proposes the arrest and prosecution of the men who for so many years have pretended to have a monopoly upon the patriotism and the intelligence of the country?

We have heard much in recent years concerning the claim that men who protest against the wrongdoing of wealthy rascals are stirring up class hatred. Do not intelligent men know that nothing will be so productive of intense class hatred as the fact, once established, that laws were made for the prosecution of the poverty stricken wrong-doer; that the man who steals a loaf of bread or the woman who makes away with a peck of coal must pay the penalty; but the rich man who adds to his millions through the spoliation of trust funds goes scot free, or is permitted to escape without punishment other than that involved, perhaps, in an enforced relinquishment of his office?